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General Information

In recent years, the winter sport of snowmobiling has increased on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests from a few machines in the mid-sixties to the several thousand snowmobiles in use today. This increase has come about because of improved equipment, more leisure time, and increased incomes. To meet the increased demand, the counties of northern Idaho in cooperation with local snowmobile clubs and the United States Forest Service are providing groomed snowmobile trails to make hundreds of miles of forest roads safer and more enjoyable for the sport.

Most of the snowmobile trails on the Fernan Ranger District are groomed by the Kootenai County snow-groomer. Roads connecting Bonner and Shoshone Counties are groomed by those counties making longer routes available to the public. The map in this brochure shows the routes that are normally groomed. These routes may vary since some roads may be plowed and kept open to remove logs from the forest. Forest Road #332, Bunco Road, is often plowed but alternate routes are available on Forest Road #206 and #209. Current information on what roads are open for snowmobiling can be obtained from the Fernan Ranger District:
2502 E. Sherman Ave.
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
(208) 765-7381

The Ranger Station is located east of interstate 90 on Sherman Avenue in Coeur d'Alene.

Fernan's improved campgrounds are closed to all use during the winter months. Restrooms are located at the 4th of July Winter Sports Area, Magee, Horsehaven & Honeysuckle. Please avoid running snowmobiles over facilities covered with snow.

Ski areas are for skiers. Snowmobile traffic ruins cross-country ski tracks. Please respect those areas that are marked as cross-country ski trails with ski signs or marking diamonds other than orange.

4th of July Winter Sports Area and Visitors Information Center

At the summit of the 4th of July Pass on I-90, 12 miles east of Coeur d'Alene, is the 4th of July Winter Sports Area and Visitors Information Center. On the north side of I-90 is the Snowmobile Trailhead and Parking Lot. This facility will have current information on trails, safety tips, avalanche information, law enforcement and other material important to safe snowmobiling.

On the south side of I-90 is the Cross-Country Park n'Ski Trailhead and Parking Lot. Trails will be groomed periodically and a small sticker fee once a year will be charged for use of this facility. Current information will be available on condition of trails and safety tips. There are restroom facilities at both the Snowmobile Trailhead and the Cross-Country Park n'Ski Trailhead. Please park in the lot designated for that sport only.

Suggested Equipment

* Proper clothing. It is best to dress warmly, but in "layers"
* Tools for emergency snowmobile repairs
* Spare spark plugs, drive belt, starter rope
* Extra gas
* Matches in waterproof container
* Tow ropes and several feet of 1/4 inch nylon rope
* Flashlight
* Hatchet or handsaw
* First aid supplies or a kit
* Sunglasses or goggles
* Snowmobile repair manual
* Survival blanket

Lost or Mechanical Trouble

* Keep calm - think, decide on a plan.
* Trust your compass.
* If with others, stay together.
* Build a fire and shelter - stay warm.
* Use the internationally recognized distress signals to attract attention - three shouts, three flashes of light, three of anything.

Avalanches

Although most of the Fernan Ranger District is not subject to avalanches, it is possible for them to occur. Prior to backcountry travel, adequate planning will help make your trip successful. Gathering weather data of the past, present and predicted is essential. Several sources are usually available, such as the National Weather Service, radio, television stations, newspapers, and the local Forest Service Headquarters. Keep in mind some of the factors that contribute to avalanches, such as wind, new snow, old snow, temperatures and settlement. Avoid crossing steep sidehills and entering narrow, steeply sided canyons, especially after heavy snowfalls or periods of high winds. Be observant.

Law Enforcement

A snowmobile license is required by law. A grooming sticker is required to travel on groomed trails. The license and sticker are inexpensive and nearly all of the money is returned to the county to support the grooming program. Machines licensed in other states may operate in Idaho for no more than 15 consecutive days before purchasing an Idaho state license. For more information contact:
Kootenai County Sheriffs Department
5500 North Government Way
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814
(208) 664-1511

If you have an accident with your snowmobile, it must be reported if it results in the injury or death of any person, or if there is property damage of $100 or more. This report must be filed with a local law enforcement agency within five calendar days.

It is unlawful to operate a snowmobile on roads that are open to wheeled traffic, whether the snow has been plowed or is not of a depth to prohibit normal vehicle use. The use of snowmobiles on plowed roads is both unlawful and dangerous, especially on icy mountain roads traveled by logging trucks!

Plowed roads may be crossed, but cross directly at right angles after being certain that you won't interfere with traffic on that road. Controlled access highways, such as Interstate 90, may not be crossed

Snowmobiling on the Fernan Ranger District

U.S.D.A Forest Service
Idaho Panhandle National Forests

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Wildlife

During the winter, deer, elk and other wild animals may be forced to move to areas where traveling is easier, such as streambottoms and roads. Snowmobilers who chase or harass game usually do not realize the hardships they cause the weakened animals. Occasionally, death is the result. State law prohibits the molestation of big game on winter ranges. If you should come across animals on the snowmobile trail, stop, shut off your engine, and allow them to move out of the trail. Never pursue game with a snowmobile.

Road Barriers

A number of roads in the Idaho Panhandle National Forests have been, or will be, closed by earthen barriers. Roads are often closed after timber sales to reduce the need for expensive maintenance, to protect wildlife or water quality, or because they are unsafe for travel. Sometimes it is a combination of the above reasons. In the wintertime, gates, earthen barriers, and the trenches just behind them may not be readily visible due to weather or snow conditions. Approach any mound blocking a road with caution, and never attempt to ride onto or over a barrier.

Groomed snowmobile trails are the best bet for maximum enjoyment and safety. If you choose to travel over ungroomed roads, please be aware that snow can hide hazards that could cause you injury or damage your machine. Reduce your risks of getting stuck or breaking down alone by traveling in groomed areas.

Safety Tips

1. Plan your trip; Let someone know where you plan to go and when you'll be back. Stick to your travel plan as close as possible.
2. Don't travel alone. Parties of at least three machines are recommended.
3. Allow yourself extra time for unforseen holdups.
4. Check the weather forecast. Don't travel in bad storms. If the weather turns bad, turn back. Don't gamble.
5. Know your capabilities!
6. If you travel new territory, go with someone who knows the area.
7. Check your equipment before leaving. Know how to make repairs on your machine. Carburator operation may vary greatly with change of elevation; know how to make the proper adjustment. Have plenty of gas, with some to spare.
8. Dress properly. Be sure clothing is warm, windproof, and adequate to get you through a night if necessary.
9. Be aware of the symptoms of hypothermia. Hypothermia is the rapid, progressive mental and physical collapse accompanying the chilling of the inner core of the human body. It is caused by exposure to cold, aggravated by wet, wind, and exhaustion.

   Symptoms
   1. Uncontrollable fits of shivering.
   2. Vague, slow, slurred speech.
   3. Memory lapses, incoherence.
   4. Immobile, fumbling hands.
   5. Frequent stumbling, lurching gait.
   6. Drowsiness (to sleep is to die).
   7. Apparent exhaustion, inability to get up after a rest.

If any of these symptoms exist, immediately get the victim warm and seek medical help as soon as possible.

Pack it in - Pack it out

The Fernan Ranger District adopted a pack it in - pack it out policy in 1976. Even in our improved campgrounds, users are expected to remove their garbage and litter as they would at home. Winter is no different. Litter doesn't melt with the snow. Burn your papers at a warming fire or carry plastic sacks to remove litter from the forest. Keep trailheads litter free and please don't drink and drive.

For Further Information

Call Fernan Ranger District
(208) 765-7381

Signs

ORANGE DIAMOND - "HAZARD"
Caution, slow down, danger may be hidden under snow.

BLUE AND WHITE
W/X - COUNTRY SKIER SYMBOL
Ski trail. No snowmobiles please.

ORANGE DIAMOND
Snowmobile trail

WIND CHILL CHART

Actual Thermometer Reading (degrees Fahrenheit)

Estimated Wind Speed in MPH	50	40	30	20	10	0	-10	-20	-30	-40	-50	-60
	EQUIVALENT TEMPERATURE											
Calm	50	40	30	20	10	0	-10	-20	-30	-40	-50	-60
5	48	37	27	16	6	-5	-15	-26	-36	-47	-57	-68
10	40	28	16	4	-9	-21	-33	-46	-58	-70	-83	-95
15	36	22	9	-5	-18	-36	-45	-58	-72	-85	-99	-112
20	32	18	4	-10	-25	-39	-53	-67	-82	-96	-110	-124
25	30	16	0	-15	-29	-44	-59	--74	-88	-104	-118	-133
30	28	13	-2	-18	-33	-48	-63	-79	-94	-109	-125	-140
35	27	11	-4	-20	-35	-49	-67	-82	-98	-113	-129	-145
40	26	10	-6	-21	-37	-53	-69	-85	-100	-116	-132	-148

(Wind speeds greater than 40 mph have little additional effect)

Little Danger

Danger: Exposed flesh can freeze, travel disagreeable

Increasing Danger - Exposed flesh freezes in 1 minute

Great Danger - Exposed flesh freezes in 30 seconds

FERNAN RANGER DISTRICT
IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FORESTS
SNOWMOBILE TRAILS

NATIONAL FOREST LANDS COVERED BY THIS MAP ARE SHADED

LEGEND

- Forest Supervisors Headquarters, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814
- District Ranger Station
- Forest Service Station
- National Forest Boundary
- Adjacent Forest Boundary
- State Boundary Line
- County Boundary Line
- Reservation Boundary Line
- Interstate Highway
- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- Forest Route
- Primary Highway
- Secondary Highway
- Primary Access Route—Normally Suitable for Automobile Travel—Travel with Caution
- Improved Road
- Road or Trail with Restrictions—Inquire at Local Forest Service Station
- Primitive Road
- Trail
- National Recreation Trail
- Railroad
- Power Transmission Line
- Heliport or Helispot
- U.S. Mineral or Location Monument
- Mine, Quarry or Gravel Pit
- Boundary Monument
- Located or Landmark Object, Aerial Beacon, etc.
- Gaging Station
- Sawmill
- House, Cabin or Other Building
- Schoolhouse or Church
- Recreation Site, Forest Service
- Recreation Site, other than Forest Service
- Ski Area
- Point of Interest
- Sportsman's Access

0 1 2 3 4 5 MILES

R 3W R 2W R 1W R 1E R 2E

T 54N T 53N T 52N T 51N T 50N T 49N

To Clark Fork

To Pritchard

Wallace

Ranger District

COEUR D'ALENE

BONNER CO. KOOTENAI CO. SHOSHONE CO.

11TH STANDARD PARALLEL

BOISE MERIDIAN

COEUR D'ALENE RIVER

NAT REC TRAIL

BONNER SHOSHONE

PUBLIC BOAT RAMP

PUBLIC ACCESS

HISTORICAL SITE

ENGLISH POINT NAT REC TRAIL

MINERAL RIDGE BOAT LAUNCH

4th of July Winter Sports Area & Visitors Information Center

FERN FALLS

CATALDO MISSION

SNOWMOBILE LEGEND

- GROOMED TRAILS
- TRAILHEADS
- TRAILS GROOMED BY OTHER COUNTIES
- TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS
- RESTROOMS
- ENGLISH POINT X-COUNTRY SKI AREA
- 4th OF JULY X-COUNTRY PARK N' SKI
- 6.3 MILEAGE

Travel Restrictions

1. HOLLISTER MOUNTAIN- Area west of Hollister Mountain Road #1552 closed to oversnow vehicles from December 1 to May 1 annually.

2. ENGLISH POINT SKI AREA- Closed annually to motorized vehicles from December 1 to April 1.

3. MONFORD CREEK NATURAL AREA- Closed to all motorized vehicles.

4. 4TH OF JULY CROSS-COUNTRY PARK N'SKI AREA- Closed to all motorized vehicles.

FR 88-14 (REV.)